(c) whether the implications of Zonal bifurcation have led to tension between Bihar and West Bengal; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to review Zonal reorganisation matter, afresh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The decision to create new Zones was taken by the Government in 1996-98. In Pursuance thereof, the new Zones are now being made fundtional, as per notifications issued. The entire reorganisation of Zones covers not only Eastern Railway Zone, but all the Zones except Northeast Frontier Railway.

(b) While comptroller and Auditor General had called for reconsideration of Government's earlier (1996-98) decision taken for creating new Zones, there is no recommendation of Rakesh Mohan Committee on creation of Zones, except for a passing remark, terming the decision as an example of mixing policy with implementation without examining the subject in detail. It was neither a part of their terms of reference nor part of recommendations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Stoppage of Trains at Dabra Station

†1164. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some suggestions are pending for the last one year with the Railway Board for stoppage of Punjab Mail, Jhelum Express and other long distance trains at Dabra Station under Jhansi Division of Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether creation of a stoppage at Dabra Station which is an important business centre, would be in the public interest; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Rail Board thereto?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) some representations have been received for the stoppage of 2137/2138 Mumbai CST-Firozpur Punjab Mail, 1077/1078 Pune-Jammu Tawi, Jhelum Express at Dabra Station. These have been examined but stoppage of the trains at Dabra has not been found commercially justified.

Employment Scandal in Railways

†1165. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Railmantri quote se naukri ke nam par croron kee thagi", which appeared in 'Dainik Jagran', dated the 5th June, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Taking congnizance of the news-item published in Patna edition of 'Dainik Jagran' of 5-6-2002, investigations were conducted by Vigilance.

(c) Investigations confirmed the existence of a racket in which private persons were found involved whereby some people were duped on the pretext of getting them jobs on the Railways against Minister's quota.

As private persons are involved in the racket, the matter is beyond the jurisdiction of Railways.

Accordingly, a complaint was got lodged by one of the affected persons with the local police at Patna for investigation, at the instance of the Railways Another FIR has been lodged by the Railways themselves at Malda. The matter is under investigation by the local police.

Further, Railways have given publicity in newspapers, cautioning people against falling prey to such rackets and also seeking their coperation in apprehending the people behind the racket.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.